LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 22, 1991/Sravana 31, 1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Solution of Punjab Problem

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*508. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:
DR. SUDHIR RAY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiative has been taken by the Union Government for the solution of the Punjab problem; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The Government is committed to make sincere efforts to solve the Punjab problem and is willing for this purpose to take whatever new initiatives that are required to find a solution. It is also committed to striving for a comprehensive settlement on all outstanding issues. The required efforts will also be made to ensure that the misguided youths present in the ranks of the militants return to the main stream of socio-economic activity and eschew violence and terrorism. The Govt. offers to hold negotiations with all those who are prepared to accept the frame-work of the Constitution of India and not endanger the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Punjab problem was raised by many hon. Members during the Ninth Lok Sabha also. The Members of Ninth Lok Sabha or the Tenth Lok Sabha have been drawing the attention of this House. It hardly matters as to which party was in power. Whether it was Congress or anyone else. But the problem is still vexed. When we raise the issue we receive a stereo-type reply. The Government says that steps are being taken and they are committed to solve it but all these things remain on paper and when it comes to implementation, nothing is done. I want the hon. Home Minister to give a reply in this regard. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to destroy the training camps of militants and their hideouts which have been established by Pakistan across the border? If so, the time by which it would be done. Another question relates to the one kilometre long security belt in the "no man's land" on the border. What is the latest position in this regard?

[English]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Regarding the training centres across the border, the Government is aware of the training centres across the border and discussions were held at various levels to see that these camps are destroyed Even a special emissary of the previous Prime Minister of Pakistan Ms. Benazir Bhutto came here and had discussion on this. And the Home Secretaries of both the States had also discussion on this

Regarding the second part of the

question which he has asked, efforts are continuing to see that no training centre flourishes across the border to endanger the security and safety of this country.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: I want to ask another question in this connection. Is there any proposal to rehabilitate Ex-servicemen in these border areas and if so, the details thereof?

Secondly, I would like to ask whether those, who have been displaced and have migrated from Punjab to Delhi and other states, would be provided security cover if they are asked to return to their homes in Punjab. If a detailed statement is made in this regard it would be helpful to us because generally things remain on paper only.

MR. SPEAKER: Not like that Shri Deshmukh. You are making a speech. You please put your question.

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: My question is whether there is any scheme to rehabilitate Ex-Servicemen in the border areas.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: My second supplementary is whether any security arrangement has been made for the migrants of Punjab who have settled in Delhi and in other states but want to return to their homes?

[English]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: This Government is always willing to provide settlement for the ex-Army men. But the question which the hon. Member has asked is whether we can settle them along the border. At the moment, there is no particular scheme, where the ex-Army men are taken into the force, along the border. There is only one country in the world, as I know, where a security belt was created and trained people were posted and that is Israel. Such a small country can practice this. But, for a large country like India, although it is really a matter to be of serious concern, I do not think, there is any possibility now. But, anyway, the Government has not taken any final view on this.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): May I supplement to this. It is about the photo identity card system that has been introduced in 210 villages along the border of Punjab and Pakistan.

DR. SUDHIR RAY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what steps they have taken to implement the Rajiv-Longowal accord of 1985. This august House welcomed Rajiv-Longowal Accord but, not a single item has been implemented. I would like to know from the Minister, what steps they have taken to transfer Chandigarh to Punjab? What steps they have taken, for the solution of Sutlej-Yamuna-Link canal, which is a dispute, and what steps they have taken for the prosecution of those, who engineered the riots against the Sikhs in 1984? What steps have you taken to give compensation to the riot victims?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: So far as the Rajiv-Longowal accord is concerned, now it is a problem as to whom we should talk to in Punjab. I think, the whole matter will be considered when a popular Government comes in Punjab and thereafter, all these issues can be settled. *(Interruptions)*

DR. SUDHIR RAY: You have to win over the confidence of the people.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, not like this. He has asked a question and the Minister is replying.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When the Minister is replying, it is not correct to get up and ask questions. Mr. Minister, have you completed?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: The statement that I was just making is that it is rather difficult to discuss Rajiv-Longowal accord. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: With whom you want to discuss it?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: If you go on interrupting me like this, then, I will not be able to complete my statement at all. You must have the patience, to at least listen to what I have to say in the matter. You cannot impose your views on me. It is a very strange situation, that you even do not allow me to make a statement. What I am saying is that we are

committed to Rajiv-Longowal accord. We propose to implement the same. But, the present position is, in order to implement this accord, I must have some parties with whom I can talk to. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What parties?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: You can ask a separate question on this. Why do you intervene in between? I do not know, why, for everything that is being said here, you go on commenting upon it. I cannot possibly say anything. My only point is.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He thinks that you are addressing him. If you address the Chair, then it will be all right.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I am sorry, Sir. We are committed to Rajiv-Longowal accord and we certainly want to implement the same. But the present position is, unilaterally at this stage, even about this SYL canal or other pending cases, certainly we have to have some kind of representative Government there, so that we will be able to make them responsible for the implementation of the same. Rest of the things will definitely be implemented provided we have a representative Government there.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he wants to take fresh initiative in the matter of finding a solution to the Punjab problem? He has referred to the fresh initiative. I believe the Government is interested to take fresh initiative. May I know from the hon. Minister in this context whether the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab, referring the water dispute to the Supreme Court, evolving a suitable mechanism to solve the territorial dispute between Haryana and Punjab and convening of a meeting of the inter-State Council which has been constituted will be done as one of the ways of taking fresh initiative, as has been referred to in his reply?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Though the Government is prepared to take fresh initiative in the matter, yet these are very controversial things. In the Rajiv-Longowal Accord, something was stated about Chandigarh and in lieu of Chandigarh something was to be given to Haryana. Now the whole thing is in such a situation that unless we have a representative Government, we cannot possibly negotiate with the Governor of Punjab. We will have to have some one who has a specific responsibility and thereafter all these pending issues will have to be discussed and an amicable solution will have to be found. Merely going to the inter-State Council at this stage is not going to help.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: I think the Minister has rightly emphasized time and again that there has to be some kind of a representative Government—not some kind of, but a real representative Government, a popular Government. I am asking a positive question whether the Government feels that in the normal course of time—may be in another two-three months, by November or December—the Government will make every possible effort, talking to all the political parties and other parties, so that the elections can be held in Punjab. Can the Home Minister give a definite assurance that in the next two-three months there will be a possibility of holding elections and having a popular Government?

Secondly, when the emissary of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan Mrs. Benazir Bhutto came here and had a talk, was there any positive response? After that negotiation with Pakistan has there been any positive response from them that no more new training camps will be opened there and they will not help the militants?

MR. SPEAKER: I think the last part of the question is a little different; it may not be answered.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: About the first part, every effort is going to be made to see that a popular Government comes to Punjab. The Government will definitely discuss all these issues with the Members of the Opposition parties and thereafter come to a conclusion. But as things stand today, the entire matter is under consideration.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Even to ensure that the democratic process to instal a popular Government succeeds, you have to unilaterally

reiterate that you are committed to the implementation of Rajiv-Longowal Accord. Even for the peaceful holding of elections, you have to create the congenial atmosphere and win over the confidence of the people. For that we all along have been suggesting and you have no objection to that, that at the village level the people's vigilance committees should be formed and they will have interaction and coordination with the administration also, so that the attack of the terrorists can be countered. There are people in Punjab who are ready to undertake that work. I want to know what concrete actions have been taken on the ground in this regard.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, my Government is more interested in having elections in Punjab as early as possible. About the Committees and other things, it can take some more time. But, immediately we will have to discuss with the Leaders of the Opposition and tell them as to on what line the Government is thinking in the matter. We will start this initiative very soon, discuss matters and come to a definite conclusion.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak. My question has three parts. First is, the amount of monthly pension that has been provided to the widows of those who were killed by the militants and second is the amount of monthly pension that is provided to the widows of 1984 riot victims.

MR. SPEAKER: No, No. Not this.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me. Has there been any increase in the monthly pension of widows in Punjab. If so, the amount of increase that has been made. I have been told that the increase has been made on paper alone and they have not got it. Besides, 5 per cent market tax was imposed on carpenters who worked in the border districts, before the elections.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are coming from general to specific. I will disallow you, if you continue like this.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this has badly affected two and a half lakh carpenters. Many delegations from Punjab have met------

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No, the question is disallowed. Both parts of the question are disallowed. I have disallowed that. Now, Shri Reddaiah.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Mr. Speaker Sir, you had allowed the first question. Let the reply come.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do like that. There are other Members who want to ask questions. I specifically allowed her to ask a question.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this. I have disallowed this question. Shri Reddaiah.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: Sir, to solve the Punjab problem, we have experimented so many trial and error methods. To win over the Sikh brothers, as a first step—without any negotiation with any party—will the Government of India hand over Chandigarh to Punjab, so that the Sikh brothers.....

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask some other question. That question is asked already. There are other Members who want to ask questions. I have to allow them.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: Will the hon. Home Minister consider the proposal and is the Government prepared—without going into negotiations with any party—to hand over Chandigarh to Punjab, so that the first step is started for solving the Punjab problem?

MR. SPEAKER: That question has already been asked. Now, Shri Jena.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, the Prime Minister had announced that the Congress party would participate in the elections in Punjab. In view of that, I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of cancelling the election process and initiating a fresh election process.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: As I stated

earlier, the entire matter is under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: As the hon. Minister rightly pointed out, there has to be a representative Government to have a dialogue as per the Punjab accord. The Congress party has boycotted the last election and until and unless the Congress party participates in the election process, there cannot be a representative Government in Punjab.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you asking this question to the party or the Government?

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: The Congress party always had a very strong representation in Punjab. That is why I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, that in the absence of participation of the Congress party in the last election, would the hon. Minister examine and decide whether the whole process has to be cancelled and fresh election ordered?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, the Congress party had boycotted the elections on the issue of secessionism.

That is why we are thinking in terms of having a dialogue with the leaders of the Opposition as to whether we can possibly think in terms of introducing a new factor in the Representation of People Act either by amendment to the Constitution or by amending the provisions of the Representation of People Act to see that secessionism is also one of the conditions. In fact, every candidate will have to announce that he does not believe in secessionism. So, that is one of the issues which is receiving the attention of the Government. We propose to discuss this issue also with the leaders of the Opposition.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Sir, there was a talk of erecting barbed wire fencing along the border, creating no man's land—one kilometre wide—along the border and destroying the centres along the Pakistan border where these militants get training, arms and ammunition. I would like to know about these three important points.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Regarding the first part of your question about the barbed wire fencing, the fencing of 356 kilometres is complete and flood-lights on 382 kilometres have been provided to protect the broder.

Regarding no man's land, at the moment, Government has not created no man's land as such.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: The third point was about destroying the centres along the Pakistan border.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has already answered.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBER JANARTHANAN: The Minister has mentioned in the written answer that efforts will be made to ensure that the misguided youths present in the ranks of the militants return to the mainstream of socio-economic activity and eschew violence and terrorism. But contrary to the answer, today, I find a headline 'Many Hindu boys join militants'. Easy money is one of the attractions for that.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Janarthanan, please ask the question.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBER JANARTHANAN: What are the new programmes of employment for the Punjab youths with adequate payment so that easy money cannot be an attraction to them to indulge in terrorism? [*Interruptions*]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Recently, the new Governor has taken charge. The new Governor is chalking out a programme to provide employment for youths in Punjab.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 509.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya. They have written a letter saying that they will not put the question.

Then, Question No. 510.

[*Translation*]

Platinum Deposits in Nainpur

*510. SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are huge deposits of Platinum near Nainpur in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the steps taken for its exploitation;

(c) whether any team of Mineral experts has been sent there;